

WELCOMING REVEREND DR.
PATRICIA VENEGAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to welcome Dr. Patricia Venegas of Without Spot Or Wrinkle Ministries International. I thank her and her husband for coming from La Verne, one of my cities.

She started the church in 1998 with her husband, Reverend Benjamin Venegas, who is up in the gallery somewhere. From 1977 to the present, she serves as a chaplain to the Covina Police Department. She was ordained as a minister of the Gospel in December 2006.

She published one book, "The Bride of Christ Without Spot Or Wrinkle." She develops and writes curricula for conferences and seminars.

Thanks for the work that you do, Reverend, to spread the Gospel throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. May God bless you and God bless our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the incredibly brave men and women in blue who serve and protect our communities.

For example, Sergeant P.J. Wilson of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is a third shift supervisor. He and his team work the wee hours of the morning to make sure that we can sleep in peace.

Officer K.S. Kodak works every weekend and most holidays because he knows that criminals don't always work business hours.

Officer Tim Purdy recently sat down in a school parking lot to calm and reassure a potentially suicidal autistic student.

Detective McKee recently helped solve a homicide from last summer, with all five suspects now in custody.

Mr. Speaker, these are just four of the thousands of police officers who should be recognized for their important work. Today and every day, we should take time to say thank you to the police officers we encounter in our communities.

RECOGNIZING DR. EPHRAIM
WILLIAMS

(Mr. BERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ephraim Williams, Pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Sacramento. Pastor Williams has epitomized the importance of community and faith for the past 45 years.

This past Sunday, my wife and I had a chance to worship with Pastor Williams and his congregation.

He will be retiring this coming Sunday, but his legacy of service and leadership will live on through his congregation, which has grown from 100 worshippers to over 2,500.

Pastor Williams led the efforts to finance and build an edifice and family life center, which now serves the surrounding community. His church offers employment fairs, home buyer workshops, financial literacy courses, and much more to the community.

Pastor Williams also serves as a mentor and adviser to younger pastors and has helped develop the next generation of leaders in the faith community.

On behalf of the Sacramento community and the region, I thank him for his 45 years of work and service, which has made our community a much better place to live in.

Thank you, Pastor Williams.

CONGRATULATING 2016 GRADUATING CLASS OF ELITE YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2016 graduating class of the ELITE Youth Outreach program.

ELITE is a wonderful program that teaches at-risk youth in our local communities in central Illinois on how to gain employment, communicate effectively, behave responsibly, and dress appropriately. The program was founded by Carl Cannon, a Peoria-born native who served his country as a military officer and drill instructor. Now he is dedicated to training and inspiring youth to overcome barriers to success, as he did himself.

In 2013, Carl Cannon received the FBI's Director's Community Leadership Award. This week, FBI Director James Comey will travel from Washington, D.C., to Peoria to address this year's ELITE graduating class.

I would like to commend Carl Cannon and his staff for their dedication to these students and recognize the transformative effect his program has had on youth in our Peoria area.

I would also like to thank FBI Director Comey for supporting this worthy program with his presence this week in Peoria.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the students who have completed this

program. You should feel proud of your accomplishments. You have a community and national and local leaders who believe in you, and we support you.

INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of infrastructure week, which is a joint effort by business and labor to highlight the dangerous conditions of America's roads and bridges.

There are currently 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in America. Every second of every day, seven cars drive on a bridge that is structurally deficient.

Congress said that we couldn't afford to rebuild the roads and bridges of America, so we only spent \$50 billion a year in the last decade to rebuild America's roads and bridges—pathetically weak. We were told we couldn't afford it.

But American taxpayers spent \$87 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Afghanistan. We spent \$73 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq—off budget and unpaid for.

Congress needs to get its priorities straight. We need to put American workers back to work and invest in our infrastructure to unleash the great potential of American businesses to grow the American economy.

CONGRATULATING PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Prairie Grove School District 46 in Crystal Lake, Illinois, for being selected as a finalist for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award, the first ever from Illinois.

This is the Department of Defense's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees.

This year, more than 2,400 nominations were submitted by National Guard and Reserve servicemembers. Prairie Grove is one of only nine public sector employer finalists.

Among servicemembers at the school district who support the nomination is Lieutenant Colonel Patty Klop, a Marine reservist, a physical education teacher, and a part-time teacher for students who have disabilities.

In her nomination, she speaks highly of District 46 when she says: "It's been a real source of stability and comfort for me over the years. I've been on several deployments, and District 46 has always been there."

Prairie Grove is invited to the Freedom Award ceremony this August at the Pentagon. I look forward to the school district representing Illinois